



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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## Australia

### FAIRS Subject Report

## Commencement of IRA for Stone Fruit Announced 2008

**Approved by:**

Kathleen Wainio, Agricultural Counselor  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Lindy Crothers, Agricultural Marketing Specialist

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**Report Highlights:**

Biosecurity Australia has announced the commencement of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for the importation of U.S. stone fruit into Australia. The IRA on stone fruit from the USA had previously been announced as a review of existing biosecurity policy. This analysis will be undertaken as a standard IRA, requiring completion within 24 months from announcement.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Annual Report  
Canberra [AS1]  
[AS]

Below is the text of a March 13, 2008 notice from Biosecurity Australia announcing the commencement of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for the importation of U.S. stone fruit into Australia.

In March 2006, in response to a market access request from the USA for the importation of stone fruit (nectarines, peaches and plums) from California and the Pacific North West States (Idaho, Oregon and Washington) of the USA, Biosecurity Australia announced that it would consider this access request as a review of existing biosecurity policy, based on the policies for the importation of cherries from California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington and stone fruit from New Zealand (see GAIN Report AS6012).

Begin Text:

#### **BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2008/04**

### **COMMENCEMENT OF AN IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS FOR STONE FRUIT FROM THE USA**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice announces the formal commencement of an Import Risk Analysis (IRA) under the regulated IRA process to consider a proposal to import stone fruit (peaches, nectarines, plums and apricots) from the USA (California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington).

This analysis will be undertaken as a standard IRA, requiring completion within 24 months from announcement.

The transition of this risk analysis into the new regulated IRA process recognizes the work already completed under the previous process, including pest categorization, draft pest risk assessments and potential mitigation measures. Biosecurity Australia is presently completing a draft IRA report, which will be circulated to stakeholders by 30 April 2008 for comment.

Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum 2007/20 of 12 September 2007 advised stakeholders that changes to the import risk analysis (IRA) process had been implemented on 5 September 2007 when regulations made under the Quarantine Act 1908 formally took effect. That advice also notified the transitional arrangements for Biosecurity Australia's import work program, including a number of risk analyses that commenced under the previous arrangements and were to transition to the new regulated IRA process.

The IRA on stone fruit from the USA had previously been announced as a review of existing biosecurity policy. Stakeholders were informed of this in Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum 2006/05 of 6 March 2006. This policy review will now be completed under the new regulated IRA process as a standard IRA.

Following the announcement of 6 March 2006, substantial work has been undertaken to progress this analysis. Biosecurity Australia therefore expects to release a draft IRA report by 30 April 2008 to enable all interested stakeholders to provide submissions and comment.

In announcing this IRA, Biosecurity Australia has considered advice from the Import Market Access Advisory Group, which was established as part of the improved IRA arrangements to advise Biosecurity Australia on priorities for import proposals.

The regulations require the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia to formally announce the commencement of IRAs to be undertaken under the regulated process. This announcement triggers the start of the regulated timeframe for an IRA.

Further information on the new regulated IRA process can be found on Biosecurity Australia's website [www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au).

End Text.

#### Recent Reports from FAS/Canberra

The reports listed below can all be downloaded from the FAS website at:  
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/AttacheRep/default.asp>.

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
AS8006	Draft Wheat Export Marketing Bill Released	03/06/08
AS8005	Wine Annual	02/26/08
AS8004	Government Announces Review of Australia's Quarantine & Biosecurity Processes	02/21/08
AS8002	Productivity Commission Invites Further Submissions to Pork Safeguards Inquiry	01/23/08
AS8001	Impact of Grain Prices on GOA Policy	01/11/08
AS7076	Productivity Commission Release Accelerated Report into Pigmeat Safeguards	12/21/07
AS7075	Bulk Wheat Export Applications	12/13/07
AS7074	Potato Report	12/11/07
AS7072	Ag Down Under Vol. 14	12/06/07
AS7071	GM Moratoria to be Lifted in Two States	11/29/07
AS7070	Cotton Quarterly Update	11/29/07
AS7069	Ag Down Under Vol. 13	11/26/07
AS7068	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Report	11/21/07
AS7067	Retail Sector Report	11/08/07
AS7066	Citrus Annual	11/07/07
AS7065	Ag Down Under Vol. 12	11/02/07
AS7063	Dairy & Products Annual	10/24/07
AS7062	Issues Paper – Safeguards Inquiry into Imports of Pig Meat	10/24/07
AS7061	Govt. Announces Safeguards Inquiry into Imports of Pig Meat	10/22/07
AS7060	ALP Wheat Marketing Proposal	10/15/07
AS7059	Ag Down Under Vol. 11, 2007	10/15/07
AS7058	Export Wheat Commission Established	10/15/07
AS7057	Sugar Semi-Annual	10/10/07
AS7056	Biosecurity Australia – Transitional Arrangements for Import Work Program	10/09/07